

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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NO 16.

THE TAX AMENDMENT.

Voters Should Post Themselves so an Intelligent Ballot May be Cast.

There will be several amendments to the state constitution submitted to the voters this fall, and it is important that they be understood—for when the people understand they generally get it about right.

Most important of these is the taxation amendment. The initiative petitions are now in circulation and it will do no harm to sign them, even if you are opposed to the amendment, for the petition only asks that the matter be submitted to the voters for their decision—and no one who favors majority rule can object to that.

I am not wholly in accord with the proposed amendment, for it is of capitalist construction. It is what appears to me to be the last wiggle of a decaying middle class and will be bitterly opposed by Big Business—the railroads, mine owners, landlords, etc. However, it is a great improvement over our present crazy system, and will abolish that relic of barbarism—the poll tax.

Our present form of assessment and taxation is so unjust that no one will defend it. It makes the oath a mockery and breeds perjury. This evil has long been recognized, and in 1901, during Gov. Dockery's administration, the legislature appointed a tax commission to recommend improvements. Again, under Gov. Folk, another tax commission was appointed in 1906. Both commissions condemned the system as a relic of the past, and, in his message to the legislature, Gov. Folk recommended abolishing the personal property tax.

I am in receipt of a letter from the "Land Owners Protective Association" Kansas City, 1401, Waltham building. This concern is opposed to the amendment and writes thus: "Realizing that a large portion of our circulation is among those engaged in farming, we take it that you are naturally interested in any matter of vital importance to the farmer."

Now, I am sure that there are many land owners in Kansas City but imagine that farmers are a little scarce in that burg. Accompanying the letter was a circular telling of an "anti-single tax meet" where these "farmers" resolved against the amendment. This gathering of "farmers" was held in the office of the Kansas City Journal—said to be the organ of the Frisco railroad.

The first resolution reads: "We are opposed to any amendment to the constitution that prohibits the taxing of land improvements and personal property."

Why should a farmer object to being relieved from paying taxes on his improvements and personal property? Let's see how a real farmer could be hurt by such an amendment:

Let us say that Bill Jones owns 10,000 acres of unimproved land over in the west part of Scott, or across Little River in Stoddard county. Bill is a politician and helps his other tax-dodgers to elect the assessor and board of equalization and his land is assessed at about \$1 or \$2 an acre. For a long time this class of land was assessed at 50 cents an acre in Scott county.

Along comes Rube Smith and concludes that he can carve a home out of forty acres of this land. Jones tells him he can have it at \$20 an acre. Jones don't do a thing but take a mortgage. Smith sells in, builds a hut, clears the land, fences it and sets in to raise a crop. Then the tax collector demands taxes on an assessed value of \$300 on the land and probably \$200 more on personal property.

Smith loses a day and goes before the board of equalization to complain that his land is now assessed five times as much as it was when Jones owned it. The members of the board look wise as they inform Smith: "Why, you've improved it."

If Smith had been lazy and done nothing his taxes would not have been raised. But because he is industrious he is fined by the state.

national, state, municipal or school, and these are exempt by law. Railroad and like bonds are chiefly held in the east, where the assessor never hears of them. And the banks have been so fortunate as to be legally able to avoid paying taxes on their loans. I have before me the statement of a local bank that shows loans amounting to \$220,000 on which it pays not a dollar taxes. They say the money belongs to depositors. Well, if I have your note the assessor don't ask whose money I let on that note. Nor does it matter. If I get the interest, or profit, I ought to pay the penalty. But the bank don't see it that way.

Returning to the proposed amendment I will briefly outline its purpose. Public bonds, public lands, church and like property now exempt will remain exempt. And all other personal property shall be exempt from taxation in the year 1914 and thereafter.

The assessment on improvements in or on land shall be gradually reduced until all such taxation shall cease in 1920.

All property to be assessed at its true and actual value. Poll tax, hunter's license, pedler's license and similar grafts will be abolished if the amendment is adopted.

Accompanying the tax petition is another petition which provides for the appointment by the governor of three commissioners to provide for and look after the enforcement of the new law. Voters who sign one should sign the other also.

SLOGAN FOR 1912. About two months ago the Coming Nation, a Socialist paper published at Girard Kan., contained a cartoon that attracted considerable attention. It represented a farmer in town with his dog. And the banker, the merchant, the commission man and so on were represented as each giving the dog a kick as he passed among them.

The idea sought to be conveyed by the cartoon was that what belonged to the farmer was common property for the parasites to prey upon—that the farmer was common picking for all—and beneath was a four line verse entitled, "You gotta quit kickin' my dawg around." At the Democratic convention at Joplin some of the patriots got very "mellow" and burst into song. Some of them broke loose on "You gotta quit kickin' my dawg around." The St. Louis papers made much of this drunken nonsense and the rural rooters took it up. A dispatch from Washington says: "The Missouri houndawg song also is now memorialized on a campaign button. Two samples were being distributed among Congressmen from speaker Clark's office today. In one case upon a blue and in the other upon a red, white lettering: "They gotta quit kickin' my dawg around."

This assures us that the Democratic slogan for 1912 will not be "Shall the people rule." They have deserted the donkey that represented them so well, and taken up with the dog.

SAYINGS OF LINCOLN. By Burke McCarthy. Away back in 1847 Abraham Lincoln uttered the following revolutionary language: "In the early days of our race the Almighty said to the first of our race, 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.' And since then, if we except the light and air of heaven, no good thing has been or can be enjoyed by us without having first cost labor."

"And, in as much as most good things are produced by labor, it follows that all such things, of right, belong to THOSE WHOSE LABOR PRODUCED THEM."

"But it so happened, in the ages of the world, that some have labored and others have, without labor, enjoyed a large portion of the fruits."

"This is wrong and should not continue. To secure each laborer the WHOLE PRODUCT OF HIS LABOR, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy object of any good government—See Lincoln's Complete Works, Nicolay & Hay, vol. I, p. 92."

Isn't it odd that away back in 1847, at about the time Marx and Engels were printing the Manifesto, Abraham Lincoln, an unknown and self-educated lawyer in swampy Illinois got hold of this central concept of Socialism?

It is just too cute to see the plute politicians crawl under the same tent whenever and wherever the Socialists get big enough to lick either of them single handed. Elections were held in Muscatine, Iowa, and Seattle, Wash., last week.

There were neither Democrats nor Republicans in either city. In Muscatine there was a Socialist ticket and a "Citizens" ticket. Of course the Socialists are not citizens. But they polled 1,615 votes while the Demo-Rep. political manager got 2,339. The Socialists gained 80 per cent there since last spring and elected one alderman in addition to the two they already have.

In Seattle it was a crime to talk Socialism on the streets two years ago, and many men and women were jailed for doing it. Last week the Socialists polled over 20,000 votes out of a total of 50,000. A press dispatch tells the story this way:

Seattle, Wash., March 7.—From a total of 4,680 votes cast in the election last year to 27,157 votes cast for Dr. E. J. Brown, candidate for corporation counsel who ran highest on the ticket, is the record of the Socialists of this city, established in the election here yesterday.

Though the Socialists did not elect any of their candidates, the vote polled by them has thrown the old party politicians into a panic.

The lowest vote polled by any Socialist candidate was that for C. J. Jacobs, for councilman, which was 18,882, and which can be considered as a straight Socialist vote. This is an increase of over 400 per cent over the highest vote cast last year.

In Milwaukee the old grafters that used to denounce each other as thieves have kissed and made up and are out on a "non-partisan" ticket to defeat the Socialists. Oscar Amrenger tells the story this way in the Rip-Saw:

In Milwaukee, the interrupted champions of Jeffersonian democracy and the Lincolnian republicanism have stolen typewriters from the city hall and horses from the fire department until a long suffering public finally invited the Socialists to clean up the stable. The cleaning took place two years ago.

The old liners saw the pie wagon fade away on the dim and distant horizon. Party lines became blurred more and more until they too, faded away.

The sadness that settled upon the grief-stricken camp of Jeffersonian democracy and Lincolnian republicanism when the pie wagon vanished is too sombre to describe. In their desperation the former "Ins" and "Outs" but now all "Outs" buried their differences (which by the way had only existed in the murky brains of their followers) and organized a non-partisan corporation for the re-conquest of the pie wagon.

The new firm should be named "Amalgamated Association of Extinguished Politicians, Boodlers, Tax Dodgers and Grafters." No new faces appear in this aggregation of hungry patriots. "Hall" had the gang's all here, what the hell do we care for party names, party principles, Jefferson or Lincoln, as long as we can get our hands on the pie wagon once more!

What we Socialists have foretold for years has come true. Fundamentally there is no difference between the two old parties. They are "Two souls with but a single thought; two hearts that beat together."

The question now arises, will the voters of Milwaukee be foolish enough to vote for the old gang under a new name. Will they invite the skunk in the house after kicking out the polecat?

The new firm of old-liners promises an honest non-partisan business administration. And there can be no doubt that the change in name is ample guarantee that the promise will be fulfilled.

Put rats in chicken coops and they will lay eggs. Place two crooks in a straight line and they will be straight men. Call a billy goat a bird and he will warble like a bird.

Crooks usually operate under assumed names. "Alfases" they are called. The Milwaukee politicians have resorted to the crooked means—the alfases. "Jeffersonian Democrats," "Jackson Democrats," alias "Lincoln Republicans," alias "Non-Partisan Patriots."

My, oh, my; how sweet the old carcass smells since he has taken on a new "alfase."

HOW IT WORKED. Rastus—Say, Moss, off 'n' whose work did dem Southern 'risticrats live for de wah?

Moss—Off 'n' de work o' us niggers, course.

Rastus—Off 'n' whose work does all de 'risticrats live now?

Moss—Off 'n' de work o' us niggers and de po' white trash.

WAR VS. EDUCATION. Socialist Congressman Berger sure rapped hard on the plute jingoism in congress when he pointed out, by their own figures, that this nation is spending twice as much on militarism as on education. He said:

"I believe in an armed nation—armed, however, for defense only. I believe in a people invincible for defense BUT SLOW, AWKWARD AND OF NO USE FOR CONQUEST OR AGGRESSION."

A standing army, gentlemen, means a standing preparation for war. There are better things to prepare for than war.

We are spending nearly \$400,000,000 in preparations for war, or as the result of former wars, while we are spending only \$200,000,000 annually for education in this country. The figures which I have given do not include the expenditures for the militia of the various states.

It is useless for certain very well meaning men to cry "Peace, peace, peace," when they are voting millions of dollars every year for war. We will finally get what we are preparing for.

Why should the United States prepare for war? Who is going to attack us? Are the Canadians going to attack us? Will the Mexicans attack us?

I heard a member from Texas tell in a private conversation the other day that in case of any trouble with Mexico, Texas alone, without any assistance from the rest of the country could whip our southern neighbor. (Applause) I believe it. And I believe that in case the Canadians should try to conquer the United States, Wisconsin and Minnesota could do the job of taking care of them, without help from Missouri. (Laughter.)

Mr. Chairman, from the rest of the world we are separated by two great oceans. In other words, we are in a better position to disengage with standing armies than any other nation in the world's history ever was. There is no question about that.

But there is one thing of which I am seriously afraid. A standing army always brings before my vision the danger of the man on horseback. No republic in the history of the world has ever long survived a standing army. There is the real danger, gentlemen.

Yet the tendency of our legislation is in the favor of a standing army. Here are the figures. In 1898 the army appropriation was only \$23,129,884.

Then came the Spanish war. Since then the appropriations have grown to the neighborhood of \$100,000,000. In spite of a reduction in the last two years' appropriations of \$9,758,700, we are now asked to vote for is the amount total of \$93,874,755.97.

In 1890 the appropriation for fortifications was \$12,238,594. For 1912 we are asked to give \$5,473,707.

Now, as to the navy. The 1890 appropriation was \$21,892,510.27. This year we are asked for \$126,478,388.

Fenshens have also grown since 1890. At that time the appropriation was \$9,758,700. For the year 1912, almost 50 years after the close of the civil war, we are paying \$153,682,000.

A nation that is always preparing for war, like we do, will sooner or later have a war."

DO YOU FAVOR WAR? By W. M. Lawson.

A friend suggests amending the constitution to take from congress the power to declare war, substituting a referendum vote upon the question by the entire electorate.

An excellent idea, and it shall have my hearty approval, providing the following clause is inserted in the amendment: The voting upon the question (shall war be declared) is to be conducted openly, each voter's ballot to be carefully marked and recorded. In the event of war being declared, the citizens who voted for it shall at once be drafted for active service. Should it require more than the majority which declared in favor of it to successfully carry on the war, another election shall be called, the following questions to be submitted to the surviving minority: "Do you favor a continuation of the war?" If the majority of the citizens elect to do so, the selfsame majority shall at once be rushed to the front. And thus ad infinitum.

The moral contained herein is this: IF WAR IS GOOD ENOUGH TO VOTE FOR, IT IS GOOD ENOUGH TO GO TO.

Would there be even a slight possibility of war between this nation and any other if such legislation were enacted? Ask your Republican and Democratic fellow workmen to answer that question.

Socialism opposes one man, or set of men, owning thousands of acres of land and making some poor devils pay rent for the use of it.

Socialism means the most happy, healthful and free life to all.

JUST THINK A BIT I want the people, men and women, who have been in Scott county as much as 15 years, to think a bit. Do you remember the bitter factional fights that were within the ranks of the Democratic party prior to a few years ago?

Of course you do. In those days a Democratic nomination was equal to an election and the fight was always in the primaries. The factional forces changed some, but were chiefly represented as the Marshall faction and the anti-Marshall faction. I turned the crank on the organ that represented the anti-Marshall faction. The enmity between these factions was as bitter then as is the enmity of the old parties toward the Socialists today. Thousands of dollars were often spent in securing nominations, street fights were common and even murder was committed. It is always so where one old party has a beastly majority. Bitter factions spring up—not to better conditions, but to get control of the spoils. "To the victors belong the spoils" is the corner-stone on which old party "patriotism" rests. Take out the spoils and all "patriotism" vanishes.

Keep in mind, now, that ten years ago we were all good Democrats divided into five factions each for revenue only. The fight was in the primaries and each faction would get out and denounce the other in most bitter terms. And it so happened that, as a rule, both factions got in some of their men—or got about "half a loaf," as they say—and both factions lined up to support "the ticket" in November. All was harmony then, because both factions would get a seat at the pie counter.

In rare instances one faction acted the hog and walked off with all the pie. In such cases the rank and file of the opposing faction would threaten to bolt in November. But the leader—the fellows who are in politics for what there is in it—would console their dupes by telling them that "we'll get 'em next time" and urged them to "stick to the party." Every old party voter is an asset of the politician, and to lose one is to lose a part of his stock in trade.

Now I am coming to the point that I want you to think about. Is there any factional strife in the Democratic party of Scott county today? If not, why not? Did not these two factions get together in the 1908 election and each become a "winner" or "loser" coughed up from \$25 to \$50 to start up a paper in opposition to the only paper not controlled by them?

Why did they do this? Was it for the good of the workers of Scott county—or were they afraid that a paper not directly owned and controlled by them might be timid about handing the people the dope they wanted handed to them?

But there was complete harmony in the Democratic ranks in 1908, wasn't there? And by 1910 this harmony had found its way into the Republican ranks so that for the first time in 40 years a Republican representative was elected. This was a concession made by those who have ruled this county so long in order to save their own hides from the Socialists.

Watch the "concessions" next November.

The "good" people who build schools, libraries, churches, etc., for us get under the spot light occasionally. An investigation into the express business revealed that it is a common practice for the companies to charge at both ends of the line. It is known that ONE COMPANY had made 3,000 overcharges in ONE DAY and collected in one year \$75,000 of clean, clear theft. But so long as they give a part of it back philanthropically, I guess we ought not to complain.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that letters of administration upon the estate of Henry Peetz deceased, have been granted to the undersigned by the judge of the probate court of Scott county, Mo., in vacation bearing date the 14th day of February 1912.

All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance within six months from the date of said letters or they may be precluded from any benefit of such estate and if said claims are not exhibited within one year from the date of the publication of this notice they will be forever barred. MINNIE PEETZ, Administrator.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that letters of administration upon the estate of Frank Hess deceased, have been granted to the undersigned by the judge of the probate court of Scott county, Mo., in vacation bearing date the 20th day of February 1912.

All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance within six months from the date of said letters or they may be precluded from any benefit of such estate and if said claims are not exhibited within one year from the date of the publication of this notice they will be forever barred. ANTON HESS, Administrator.

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURI.

Happenings in Neighboring Counties that May be of Interest to You.

The Poplar Bluff Citizen commends the Iron-Mountain railroad for its goodness in establishing a rule giving passes to its employees. Men who have shared continuously for fifteen years get a pass over the division they work on. They who have worked for 20 years get a pass for self and wife. They who have worked for 25 years are entitled to a pass for self and family. Of course there are few of either class. The life of the average railroadman is seven years. Then that "continuous service" clause is another joker. This ruling applies to the men who do the hard and useful work of operating the road. The bosses who sit at the wine tables while these men climb around on ice-covered cars get passes all the time for all their family and all their friends. Why not let the workers be the bosses also?

The Jackson Item warns the pie hunters of the Republican party that if they are not careful they will upset the pie wagon and say of the convention in the Thirteenth district: "The day before the convention the Globe-Democrat reported that with the convention in Clinton county the Roosevelt forces had carried the district. The result of the convention was just the reverse. That is, for the important matter, it is the reported hearing and naming shut of doors to keep out all people unless supplied with passes from the local political boss which looks bad. A little more of this kind of business and it will matter little who is nominated because a nomination under such circumstances is equivalent to defeat."

Dexter Messenger—It was at the dinner of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association that the ghost of Socialism was summoned to frighten the assembled money changers—the ward being the Kentucky senator-elect, Oile James. He undertook to enlighten the men of money as to why Socialism is spreading in this country as well as in Europe. He said it was a protest against conditions which no one could gain say, and that the only cure was equal rights to all and special privileges to none. He compared the financial hold-ups of the labor dynamite case—marking one quite as bad as the other.

Mrs. Wm. Adams was burned to death in Franklin county. She was standing by a king heater holding her baby when her dress caught. As soon as she discovered that she was on fire she put the baby on the bed and ran to her husband, who was at the barn. But it was too late. She died soon after. When we get civilized we will change the apparel of women. Almost every week the local papers report a death of this kind. It is criminal to force women who must be around the fire so much to wear such inflammable material.

Hello, there! Do you remember how the Socialists frightened the old grafters in Poplar Bluff last spring? Well, the Citizen says of the patriots: "They urge the division of the council between the parties by the election of a Citizens ticket instead of partisan elections. The advocates claim that the council should be taken out of politics. Why, of course. But the Citizen goes on to say: 'It is difficult to say just how the people will react to this plan.' Just tell 'em it is a groundhog case."

East Prairie Eagle—A house cat belonging to the family of W. A. Allen was responsible for the death of one of his much loved Sunday. About three weeks ago while the cow was being milked, the cat, which up until that time had been a gentle household pet, came into the lot and suddenly jumped and seized the cow by the nose, sinking its teeth in the cartilage and holding on until shaken off by the cow. Three weeks later the cow was attacked by hydrophobia and had to be killed.

Peimscot Argus—The body of Carl Hill, who was killed at Pascola Friday in a train wreck was brought here for burial Sunday. Mr. Hill was on a car of logs between Pascola and Wardell, when truck spread allowing five cars to fall off into the ditch. In some manner he was caught between some logs, having both legs cut off and the lower part of his jaw. A pipe which he was smoking had the stem cut in two, leaving a portion yet between his teeth. He leaves a wife and children.

Peimscot Argus—One associate judge has felt the weight of public opinion and announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election. He said he knew it would be useless, for he "wouldn't audit the books." The question of county auditing is the most important one before the voters of our county today, and they are beginning to realize the same.

New Madrid county is to quarrel over local option again. Got some Socialism in there and such foolishness will stop.

Robbers at Caruthersville one night last week made two hauls in which they got about \$200.

A wild cat was recently killed in a woodshed at Kennett. It was probably driven from the swamps by hunters.

Rex Daniels and Robert Cambron of near Sikeston are held for the circuit court, charged with selling cattle that did not belong to them. It seems that cattle around Sikeston are mysteriously disappearing. The Standard says: "Charles Harrison, a farmer, living south of Sikeston, says that 15 head of cattle were stolen from him a month or so ago. Dr. Smith and Hutchinson of this city bought 15 head from the same men, they say cattle which had ear marks torn out. Many other farmers south of this city and below Morehouse are reporting the mysterious disappearance of cattle and hogs for some time and it is generally believed that a systematic theft of stock was being practiced."

Fredericktown News—Unless they are given higher wages five thousand men in the lead fields of St. Francois county may strike. It is rumored that the men will ask for an increase of a dollar a day. It is understood they were informed that 25 cents more a day might be forthcoming. Should a strike be called, 6 towns which produce the greater portion of the lead in Missouri would be affected, viz: East River, Bonnetaire, Desloge, St. Francois, Leadville and Elvins.

Jackson Cash-Book—A company with a capital stock of \$30,000, fully paid up, has been organized here to manufacture a newly invented camera for making photos and cards in ten minutes. The camera was invented by London Bros. of Glen Allen, Mo. It is said to be a complete revolution in the photo business. It is the only camera that will make actual photos in daylight and operate from the outside without touching the photos with the hands.

Peimscot Argus—What was probably the largest shipment of stock ever entering St. Louis in one train load was taken over the Frisco. It left Chicago on its run to St. Louis, picking up extra cars at Cape Girardeau and at other points along the road, so that by the time it reached Crystal City, the engine was pulling 38 cars of hogs, 22 cars of cattle and one of sheep, a total of 61 cars.

Poplar Bluff Citizen—A fox individual who gave his name as McLaughlin managed to get by a clever "fast-track" scheme in this city in the organization of a Democratic club. He arranged up with some money and managed to leave an unpaid board bill, but all efforts by the police to locate him has been without avail.

Marcellus McBride committed suicide at Kennett last week. He was a stove fitter. His parents live at the Cape. He was 26 years old and is said to have worried over a love affair.

John Gawronski, once a prominent business man of Cape Girardeau, was buried there last week. He had outlived all his children and no relative was present at the funeral.

Jackson Item—We received the word over the telephone that 4 school children on Hickory Ridge were bitten by a mad dog, but could get no further particulars.

Two small children of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cookley of Chaffee died after eating canned goods. Two more numbers chargeable to the food trust.

Oscar Hacker, a Perry county farmer, was tied up in East St. Louis in day light and robbed of a \$25 watch and \$6 in money.

While cutting timber near Crowder a falling tree caught George Ellis and crushed the life out of him.

Fritz Madge died at Jackson 76 years old. He had lived in Jackson since before the rebellion.

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STOCKMEN AND FARMERS

Do you want fine colts? Of course you do. Then patronize my stock. PRINCE is a fine stallion that shows fine colts. Terms, To insure, \$10.00.

EVENING STAR is a thoroughbred Kentucky Jack 15.1-2 hands high. The result of the past season proves him to be a sure foal-getter. Terms—To insure \$12.

Money due as soon as the mare is sold, traded or removed from the county. Care will be taken to prevent accident, but will not be responsible should any occur. Colt held as security for service fee. If mare loses colt, half price will be charged.

These animals will stand in the South end of New Hamburg during the season of 1912.

LEO WESTRICH, Owner.

